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AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Surfactants useful in the present invention are water soluble/dispersable surface active agents, the preferred being anionic. Surfactants suitable for use in enhancing the settling of fine phosphate ore particles from thick slime slurries preferably include those selected from, but not limited to, the group consisting of ammonium salts, lithium salts, sodium salts, and potassium salts of C₆-C₁₆ alkyl-X, alkylene-X, aryl-X, alkyl aryl-X, naphthalene-X, and combinations thereof, wherein X is one of mono-sulfonic acids, poly-sulfonic acids, mono-sulfuric acids, poly-sulfuric acids, mono-phosphoric acids, poly-phosphoric acids, mono-phosphonic acids, poly-phosphonic acids, mono-carboxylic acids, poly-carboxylic acids, and combinations thereof. **Another equivalent or more simple way of expressing the above one or more surfactants is that the one or more surfactants are anionics selected from the group consisting of salts of mono and divalent ions of general formula R-X(m) wherein R is C₆-C₁₆ alkyl, alkylene, aryl, alkyl aryl, naphthalene, or substituted naphthalene, and X is sulfonic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, or carboxylic acid, and m is 1 to 5.**